



MALHEUR COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY



August 2008

Malheur County FSA Office

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Denise Bishop, PT
Darlene Brandt, PT
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Maria Lujan, PT
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Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

New Disaster Programs:

The recently-enacted Farm Bill brought into law permanent disaster programs covering losses for crops, trees/vines/bushes, forage, and other losses due to adverse weather. These programs require all crops on all of your land to be covered by either federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). **All of your crops on all of your acreage must be covered, not just those acres that suffered losses.**

Due to the late passage of the Farm Bill in May, you will be given an opportunity to "buy-in" to the disaster program by paying a \$100/crop catastrophic crop insurance or NAP service fee for any 2008 crops that are not already covered by crop insurance or NAP.

This eligibility "buy-in" must be completed by September 16, 2008 at your FSA Office to satisfy the requirement for total CI / NAP coverage. Note that it does not provide you with crop insurance indemnities or NAP benefits. Once this requirement is met, you may be eligible for one or more of the following programs:

- **Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE):** Covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in 1) a disaster declared counties or contiguous counties, or 2) in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50%
- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):** Compensates livestock owners for forage losses due to drought. Additionally, losses due to wildfire will be covered on public lands.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** Provides for partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF):** Emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish, which suffered a loss from a declared disaster. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.

Another disaster program authorized by the Farm Bill is the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality. This is the only disaster program that does not require crop insurance or NAP coverage.

Further details of all of these disaster programs, including signup information, will be provided at a later date. Note that additional requirements exist for disaster programs eligibility.

Eligibility "Buy-In" Deadline is September 16, 2008

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• **Bottom Line: To be eligible for Disaster Programs in 2008, you must have either insurance or NAP coverage or pay the fees for the eligibility buy-in by September 16, 2008.**
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Crop Reporting Deadline:

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. **The crop reporting deadline is August 15, 2008.**

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Crop Reporting Deadline is August 15th

If you are not certain that you or your operator have filed an acreage report, please contact the office at (541) 889-9689 ext. 2.

Sign-up Underway for the 2008 DCP:

Producers have **until September 30, 2008** to sign up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). There will be **no late filed provisions** for 2008 DCP.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued sometime after Oct. 1, 2008.

A producer on a farm will not receive DCP payments if the sum of the base acres of covered commodities on the farm is 10 acres or less. However, this provision does not apply if the farm is wholly owned by either a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher. If the farm is owned by a legal entity, such as a corporation, each shareholder, partner, or member of the entity must be a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher.

Again, participants must submit the **completed DCP contract by September 30, 2008**. Applications filed after this date will not be approved. Please contact the office at (541) 889-9689 ext. 2 to make an appointment.

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP):

NAP is available for all crops not covered under Federal Crop Insurance. NAP provides catastrophic level of coverage (50% yield / 55% price) to crops damaged by the eligible weather events that occur before or during harvest. Due to enactment of the farm bill on 5/22/08, **the fees have been increased to \$250/crop, maximum of \$750/county, and a maximum of \$2250/multi County.**

- Fall planted vegetable seeds, canola, carrots, onions and other seed crops; Christmas trees, cut flowers, ornamental nursery, herbs, grass, alfalfa, small grain, (fall or spring planted), other forage, grazing, grass seed, clover seed, alfalfa seed, and any other perennial not mentioned, all fruit crops, honey -- **December 1, 2008**
- All spring planted crops not mentioned -- **March 15, 2009**
- Buckwheat -- **May 31, 2009**

Report Crop Losses:

Producers who have suffered crop losses due to weather should **report those losses to the FSA office within 15 days** of the disaster event or if the crop will not be carried to harvest.

This is a requirement for producers who have NAP coverage. Reporting crop losses is also recommended for other producers so an accurate appraisal of damage can be performed. This information is essential for documentation of losses in the event of a disaster program.

2005-2007 Quality Loss Crop Disaster Signup:

Signup for quality losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began on June 23, 2008. The CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to their 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions. Producers who incurred qualifying quantity or quality losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may receive benefits for only one of these years. However, producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quality losses of at least 25 percent to be eligible for CDP Quality Loss.

For more information please contact Darlene at (541) 889-9689 ext. 2.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher:

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Want Your Info Via E-mail:

If you use a computer at home or in your farm or ranch operation, you may prefer to receive information via e-mail from your Farm Service Agency. Use the e-mail address below to share your e-mail address if you would like to be added to our e-mail list. We are exploring the option to send the county office newsletter and other information directly to your computer. To get on our list, send your e-mail address and full name, address and phone number to wes.jennings@or.usda.gov.

Note that USDA will not share or sell your e-mail address. Note also that all county FSA newsletters are available on the FSA Oregon State website at www.fsa.usda.gov/or.

Malheur County FSA Office
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Important Dates:

August 15, 2008: Acreage Reporting Deadline

August 15, 2008: EQIP Signup Deadline with NRCS

September 1, 2008: Office Closed -- Labor Day

September 16, 2008: Disaster Eligibility "Buy-in" Deadline

September 30, 2008: Deadline to enroll in DCP

December 1, 2008: Deadline to purchase NAP coverage

Within 15 days: NAP Notice of Loss (FSA-576) must be filed within 15 days of loss or when the loss became apparent.

Crop Reporting Deadline is August 15th

Special Accommodations:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communications of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C., 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer. Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Wes Jennings at (541) 889-9689 ext. 2.